

NOTES ON THE TACHINID GENUS *CERACIA* RONDANI (DIPTERA), WITH A NEW SPECIES FROM THE PHILIPPINES.

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This is a widespread genus of grasshopper parasites, species having been described from Europe, North and South America, Australia and the Oriental region.

Genus *CERACIA* Rondani.

- Ceracia* Rondani, Atti Soc. ital. Sci. nat., vol. 8, p. 221, 1865. Type designated, *mucronifera*, new, from Italy.—Bezzi, Zeitsch. Hym. und Dipt., vol. 6, p. 51, 1906.—Townsend, Revista Ent., vol. 1, p. 89, 1931, syn.
- Ceratia* (emendation) Brauer and Bergenstamm, Zweif. Kais. Mus., pt. 4, p. 112, 1889; pt. 6, p. 160, 1893.
- Myothyria* Van der Wulp, Biologia, Dipt., vol. 2, p. 338, 1890. Type *majorina*, new, by designation of Coquillett, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 37, p. 573, 1910.—Brauer and Bergenstamm, Zweif. Kais. Mus., pt. 5, p. 358, 1891; pt. 6, p. 160, 1893.—Malloch, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, vol. 55, p. 338, 1930.
- Acemyiopsis* Townsend, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 49, p. 433, 1915. Type *punensis*, new, from Peru.
- Clythopsis* Townsend, Revista Mus. Paul., vol. 15, p. 276, 1926. Type *confundens*, new, from Brazil (syn. of *Myobia brachyptera* Thomson, 1869, from Brazil).

The genus is closely allied to the familiar *Acemyia*, which has the third antennal joint ending in a distinct upturned point at apex. The principal differences are that the prosternum is bare in *Acemyia*, and has hairs along the sides in *Ceracia*; and that the male in *Acemyia* has a rather narrow front, without orbitals, while in *Ceracia* the male has a wider front, with a row of orbitals. Of our two rather common species in the United States (Coquillett, Revision, 1897, p. 115), *tibialis* Coquillett is a true *Acemyia*, and *dentata* Coquillett is a *Ceracia*.

Townsend has asserted the synonymy of *Clythopsis*. I have added *Myothyria* from a cotype in the U. S. National Museum, and *Acemyiopsis* from the type, which is also in the National Museum.

Ceracia aurifrons, new species.

Black, densely gray pollinose; head silvery except parafrontals, which are light golden.

♂ ♀. Length, 5-7 mm.

♂. Frons at vertex .27 of head width, continuing at the same width almost to antennae; frontal stripe velvet black; parafrontals golden pollinose, wider than the stripe all the way; parafacial, clypeus, cheek and orbit silvery; antennae black, second joint red on apical half or more, third red at extreme base, the up-turned point of the third joint varying considerably in the prominence;

arista thickened on basal fourth, basal joints short; palpi reddish yellow; cheek one-fourth eye height, a row of about six orbital bristles.

Thorax densely pollinose with a yellowish cast, the usual two pairs of black stripes, very narrow and interrupted at the suture, the outer one showing merely a spot anterior to it; scutellum black, uniformly pollinose. Chaetotaxy: dorsocentral 2, 3; acrostichal, 2, 2; humeral 2; posthumeral 1; presutural 1; supraalar 3 (first and third minute); intraalar 3; postalar 2; sternopleural 1, 1; scutellum with 2 lateral pairs and a long apical; no discals.

Abdomen rather elongate, densely gray pollinose especially when viewed from behind, when viewed from the sides some darker reflecting spots appear; first segment without median marginals; second with one pair; third with a row of 10; fourth with a row of 12; no discals on any of the segments. The abdomen is especially shining black around the bases of all the bristles.

Legs black; claws and pulvilli moderately elongate, the latter yellowish; middle tibia with two bristles on outer front side; hind tibia with irregular row on outer hind side.

Wings hyaline; third vein with one hair at base; first posterior cell closed in margin of the wing rather far before apex; bend of fourth vein rounded, without appendage; hind crossvein joining fourth at three-fifths of the distance from anterior crossvein to bend; calypters white.

♀. Frons at vertex .32 of head width; only two pairs of orbital bristles; second antennal joint wholly yellow; arista yellow at base.

Described from 6 males and 2 females, reared from grasshoppers at La Carlota Central, occ. Negros, Philippine Islands, by E. P. Goseco, to whom two paratypes are being returned.

Type.—Male, Cat. No. 44773, U. S. Nat. Mus.

NOTES ON SPHECOPHAGA BURRA (CRESSON), AN ICHNEUMONID PARASITE OF VESPULA MACULATA (L.)
(HYMENOPTERA).

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A large nest of the bald-faced hornet, *Vespula maculata* (L.), brought to the Museum by C. E. Mickel on August 31, 1929, showed fifteen cells containing the parasite *Sphécophaga burra* (Cresson). Dr. Mickel had killed everything in the nest by fumigation with carbon disulphide, but several items of interest in regard to the parasite were obtained, as well as some valuable material.

All the parasites had progressed at least to the point of cocoon construction, most of them to the pupal stage, while in two cells adults were found. There had been no emergence. From one to eight parasites were found in a cell. In every case the host was a fresh pupa, and in no case was the entire body content exhausted by the parasites.